

Injury Prevention Advocate

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Year 2 is a Success for the Head Start and Day Care CPS Project

By Debi Meek



The Inter-Tribal Council of Nevada Head Start Centers in Elko and Wadsworth, Ute Tribe Head Start and Bishop Day Care participated in the Reno District Child Passenger Safety Project. The purpose of the project was to increase restraint use by 20% by teaching kids to buckle up and by giving them a free car seat to use. Eighty-

four Head Start students and 26 Day Care children participated in the project.

This was a repeat project from the last school year that had a significant increase in child restraint use with even better results this year. Teachers taught children it is important to use a seatbelt and booster seat and conducted observational surveys every week to see if children were buckled up. Incentives were given to the children who were buckled up. Each child was weighed and measured to make sure they got the right car seat.

Participating Head Starts and Day Care were selected based on the teachers' willingness to teach the children about buckling up and observing the children on a weekly basis. The teachers did an excellent job because more kids were buckling up by the end of the school year at 3 of the 4 centers. The project started in October 2002 and ended April 2003.

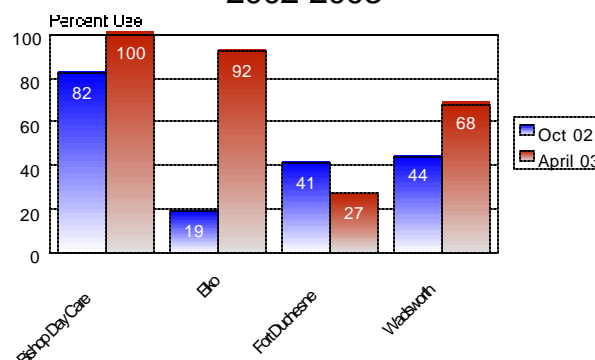
At the Bishop Day Care 26 children participated where 9 out of 10 (82%) children were restrained in October and 14 out of 14 (100%) were restrained in April.

There were 6 children observed both in October and April. Of those 6 children, 5 out of 6 (83%) were restrained in October and 6 out of 6 (100%) were restrained in April.

Elko Head Start had 20 participants with 3 out of 16 (19%) restrained in October and 11 out of 12 (92%) in April. Ten children were observed during both observations with 2 out of 10 (20%) restrained in October and 9 out of 10 (90%) in April.

Wadsworth Head Start had 34 participants with 7 out of 16 (44%) restrained in October and 13 out of 19 (68%) in April. Ten children were observed during both observations with 5 out of 10 (50%) restrained in October and 8 out of 10 (80%) in April.

Child Restraint Use 2002-2003



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In the Spotlight: Dave Cramer

By Dave Cramer



I've enjoyed serving as the Environmental Health Officer for the Uintah & Ouray Service Unit since March of 1998. As I enter my last few days in Ft. Duchesne, I wish I could report that over the past five years we've increased the seat belt usage rate and reduced the injury fatality rate on the reservation, but unfortunately that is not the case. A seat belt survey conducted on May 21, 2003 showed driver occupant restraint usage still at a dismal 25%, and sadly we're still losing tribal members in numbers disproportionate to the rest of the country. Despite those facts, I truly believe that we've built a strong foundation upon which much progress will come. For example, two summers ago COSTEP intern Justin Gerding studied five years of U&O injury data and was able to show that reservation young men ages 16 to 20 bear the largest proportion of the motor vehicle injury burden. He also found that our suicide completion rate is six times the US average. That information will be key to future injury prevention interventions. Justin's epidemiology project was a result of the hard work

completed by OEH Secretary, Teresa Shields, who reviewed literally hundreds of medical records.

In terms of child passenger safety, we overhauled the distribution program to ensure that parents who receive a child safety seat are properly trained. Ute Tribe Health Educator Joe

LaFramboise, Teresa Shields and myself became certified CPS Technicians along with Allan Pitts, PHN for the Paiute Tribe. We've worked closely with the Utah Governors Office of Highway Safety and the IHS to ensure the availability of high quality seats to parents with children of all ages. My replacement is also a certified CPS technician, and Janae Pike of the BIA Police Department will be attending certification training in June thereby ensuring the same high level of service in the future.

Joe La Framboise completed an Injury Prevention Fellowship project, which assessed barriers to occupant restraint use on the reservation. One of the important benefits of his study was to determine once and for all that the tribe adopted a seat belt law when it adopted the Utah Motor Vehicle Code. Ending the confusion over this point will have a far-reaching effect on law enforcement and in the end will save lives.

There have been other successes too: Fatal Vision Goggles



In the Spotlight

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at the 2002 July 4th Powwow, Head Start CPS project at Little Mesa Head Start Center, Boost America booster seat distribution, CPS checkpoints, Sleep Safe smoke alarm distribution and the establishment of a community coalition. Currently, the Ute Tribe is poised to apply for grants, which should improve tribal law enforcement's ability to target occupant restraint use. All in all, we've made slow but steady progress, and with the arrival of Thomas Young as the new Environmental Health Officer, the future looks bright. It's truly been my pleasure to serve the Ute and Paiute tribes and work with the staff of the Reno District Office of Environmental Health. Y'all are a classy bunch. Thank you and best wishes for the future.

Farewell and Congratulations to Dave Cramer



Dave Cramer receives a piece of cake at his farewell luncheon.

Congratulations to Dave Cramer, U&O Service Unit Environmental Health Officer, on his acceptance to the IHS Institutional Environmental Health Residency Program at the Uniformed Services University, Maryland. Dave left the Fort Duchense Office of Environmental Health earlier this month to embark on this new adventure. The Reno District has had the distinct pleasure of working with Dave Cramer for the past 5 years. We will miss his occasional off-the-wall remarks but most of all his enthusiasm, great ideas and hard work. Good luck , Dave!

Ute Tribe Health Education Director Completes Injury Prevention Fellowship



By Holly Billie



After a year of gathering data and attending periodic training, Joe LaFramboise, Ute Tribe Health Education Director, completed the Injury Prevention Fellowship with a presentation of his project at the Indian Health Service Fellowship Symposium, Atlanta, GA. The project, entitled *Barriers to Child Safety Seat Use on the Uintah & Ouray Indian Reservation* sought to determine the barriers of child safety seat (CSS) use and to recommend actions from the community to improve child passenger safety.

To complete the project Joe conducted interviews among 4 local law enforcement agencies: Bureau of



Indian Affairs (BIA), Duchesne County Sheriff, Uintah County Sheriff and Utah Highway Patrol. The Ute Tribal Court chief judge and traffic arraignment clerk were also interviewed. Three focus groups of parents with children ages 0-8 were convened to determine barriers to CSS use and possible solutions. Joe assessed the child safety seat distribution program and other Tribal programs for children to determine what types of CSS information was given to parents. Through the focus groups it was discovered there was confusion over the existence of the child safety seat law. In addition, parents, police officers and judges seemed to underestimate the safety and public health implications of driving with unrestrained children. The study also highlighted the manpower shortage at the BIA police department and the judiciary's hesitance to impose heavy fines on families already struggling financially. Based on these findings, recommendations for action will be made to the Tribe's Highway Safety Coalition.

Reno-Sparks Indian Colony Health Fair



By Becky Hunkup & Andrea Horn



Andrea Horn conducts the DUI goggle demonstration.

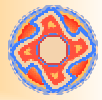
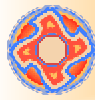
The Reno-Sparks Indian Colony (RSIC) held its Health Fair on Saturday, May 17, 2003. The health fair presented a wide variety of information on injury prevention activities ranging from fire safety, domestic violence, bicycle safety, smoke detectors, fatal vision goggles, child finger-printing, and car seat information. The Reno-Sparks Tribal Police, the Reno Fire Department, and the Regional Emergency Medical Services Authority (REMSA) were also participants at the RSIC health fair.

Becky Hunkup, RSIC Injury Prevention Specialist, talked with children about stranger danger and bicycle safety. Buckle Bear also made a guest appearance at the health fair. The health fair was a great success with approximately 44 health booths and presenters available and over 317 people in attendance.



Dave Hunkup, IP Coalition and volunteer fire department member, teaches fire extinguisher training.

Pyramid Lake and Big Pine Awarded Fire Safety Mini-Grant



By Holly Billie



Mini-grant proposals were submitted to the Phoenix Area IHS Injury Prevention Program by the Pyramid Lake Paiute Tribe Housing Authority and the Big Pine Paiute Tribe to purchase and install smoke alarms.

Both tribes were awarded mini-grants. The Pyramid Lake Housing Authority will be installing 15 photoelectric smoke alarms with 10-year lithium batteries in homes of elders. Three special needs smoke alarms with light assisted warning devices for the hearing impaired will also be installed.

The Big Pine Community Development Department will be installing 15 photoelectric smoke alarms and 5 special needs alarms for elders.

According to the Centers for Disease Control Native Americans and adults 65 and older are at increased risk for fire-related injury and death (NCHS 1998). These tribes are commended for their efforts to implement proven strategies to prevent injuries to elders from fire in their communities.

For more information on mini-grants contact your local IHS Environmental Health Officer.

Year 2 CPS Project (from page 1)



Ute Tribe (Fort Duchesne) Head Start began the project with 30 participants with 9 out of 22 (41%) restrained in October and 4 out of 15 (27%) in April. This school was not able to implement all components and complete the project due to staff turnover.

The overall observation rates reflected the rates of children seen in both October and April observations. The common observations (children observed in both October and April) helped to determine changes in seat-belt and child restraint use by these children.

Overall, the project was a success in increasing restraint use among Head Start and Day Care children. We never outgrow the need for occupant protection. Everyone from our youngest infant to our most respected elder should be properly buckled up to ensure a safe future for our people and a continuation of our heritage.

If you would like more information on this project please contact your local IHS Environmental Health Officer.

Reno District Staff Receive Awards for Child Passenger Safety Project



Mike Welch, Phoenix Area Environmental Health Director, presents the Public Health Service Unit Commendation award to Debi Meek, Dave Cramer, Andrea Horn, and Holly Billie.

The Reno District Staff was recognized with a Public Health Service Unit Commendation for their work on the Head Start and Day Care Project from 2001-2002. The project was successful in increasing restraint use at 6 Head Start Centers and 1 Day Care Center.

IHS Announces Funding Opportunities in Injury Prevention



The Indian Health Service has announced funding opportunities through Injury Prevention Cooperative Agreements.

What is the scope of the funding?

- (Type I Projects) Develop a tribal injury prevention program including the hire of a full-time injury prevention coordinator.
- (Type II Projects) Implement proven or promising injury prevention projects based on local data.

What funds are available?

- Five Type I projects up to \$50,000 each per year.
- Three Type II projects up to \$15,000 each per year.

What is the timetable?

- Applications due: July 15, 2003
- Award announcement: October 1, 2003
- Funding period: 2 years for either type

Reno-Sparks Indian Colony Head Start Selected for Sleep Safe



Sleep Safe is a program funded by the US Fire Administration to promote smoke detector use among Head Start students' families. Reno-Sparks Indian Colony (RSIC) Head Start has been selected as one of 19 nationwide sites to participate in this program. Starting in the 2003-2004 school year Head Start staff and the RSIC Injury Prevention Coordinator will be helping families install smoke detectors and providing fire safety training to students and parents.

Firearm Safety Project Results to be Published



By Holly Billie



Village Public Safety Officer assists with the installation of a gun safe.

Before coming to Reno Andrea Horn, Schurz Service Unit Environmental Health Officer, worked in Alaska. While there Andrea conducted a firearm safety project for the IHS Injury Prevention Fellowship.

To attempt to reduce firearm related injuries and deaths in Bristol Bay, Alaska, a gun safe and trigger lock intervention program was implemented. Forty gun safes and 40 trigger locks were distributed randomly to two Bristol Bay communities during December 2000. Village Public Safety Officers (VPSO) assisted with distribution of the safes and provided gun storage tips to participants. Each household received a trigger lock and a gun safe. In

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Firearm Safety Project

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March 2001, visual evaluations were conducted to identify if residents were utilizing the gun safes and/or trigger locks.

During the evaluation, 32 of the 37 gun safes were found utilized and locked. Eleven of the 37 trigger locks were found in use.

This study will be published in a future issue of the national publication, *Injury Prevention*.



Andrea Horn interviews participants about gun storage practices.



Government Announces Ratings on Child Safety Seats

On Wednesday, June 11, the National Highway Safety Administration (NHTSA) announced the child safety seat "ease of use" rating system. Under the new rating system, child restraints are given an overall ease-of-use rating at the "A", "B" or "C" levels. The overall rating is determined from the letter grades the child restraint receives in each of five categories:

- Pre-assembled restraint or requires assembly.
- Clarity of the labeling.
- Clarity of the written instructions.
- Ease of securing a child correctly in the restraint.
- Seat has features that make it easier to install.

For more information visit www.nhtsa.dot.gov